



## Safeguarding Newsletter

### Welcome to our Newsletter

#### Why have a Newsletter?

Safeguarding is such an important issue for our children and young people that we have decided to have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents, staff and children so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

We are aware that students and parents sometimes wish to raise safeguarding concerns. Please contact us through [enquiries@shsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@shsb.org.uk) if there is a general concern that you wish to share. Alternatively, if you wish to discuss a confidential safeguarding concern, please email the safeguarding team below directly at [safeguarding@shsb.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@shsb.org.uk).

### Our Designated Safeguarding Leads

Any safeguarding or child protection concerns **MUST** be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility.

MRS R WORTH



Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR L BAINES



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR J BRANDON



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR C FOLEY



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR G MARCH



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

We have prepared key information on the school website for parents to access important documents and contact details. Please have a look at: [www.shsb.org.uk](http://www.shsb.org.uk)

#### Previous issues

##### April 2023

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2119&type=pdf>

##### July 2023

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2240&type=pdf>

##### October 2023

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2435&type=pdf>

In this issue we are focusing on child criminal exploitation and gangs.

#### Worried about a child?

You can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Information for this bulletin was taken from NSPCC guidance. They reference a report by the Children's Commissioner entitled Keeping Kids Safe. A link to the full report can be found here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/keeping-kids-safe/>

We know that Christmas can be very difficult time for some parents. If you are in need of help over the holiday season, we have prepared an information leaflet containing details of some of the key organisations working in our local area.



# PARENT FACTSHEET

## Criminal Exploitation and Gangs



### What is Criminal Exploitation?

Criminal Exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are coerced into committing crimes.

### What is a gang?

The word 'gang' means different things in different contexts. The government in their paper, 'Safeguarding Children and Young People who may be affected by gang activity', distinguishes between peer groups, street gangs and organised criminal gangs.

It is not illegal for a young person to be in a gang - and not every gang is criminal or dangerous. However, gang membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime.

### What are County Lines?

County Lines is the police term for urban gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets. These 'deals' are conducted on phone lines through direct messaging or via social media. Children as young as 12 years of age have been exploited into working for gangs.

### How are young people recruited?

A young person might be recruited because of where they live or who their family is. They might be targeted if they are seen as being vulnerable or isolated and needing protection. Young people join gangs for many reasons, including:

- peer pressure and the need to fit in;
- needing to feel respected and important;
- want to be protected from bullies;
- the desire to make money, and are promised rewards;
- the need for 'status' and power; and having been excluded from school and feel that they have no future.

Organised criminal gangs groom young people because they are viewed as less suspicious than adults and treated more favourably by the police.

### Signs of criminal exploitation

There are some of the signs that might indicate a young person is at risk of being criminally exploited:

- frequently absent from and doing badly in school;
- going missing from home, staying out late and travelling for unexplained reasons;
- in a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them;
- being angry, aggressive or violent;
- being isolated or withdrawn;
- having unexplained new things;
- spending more time on social media speaking with people you don't recognise and using new slang words;
- committing petty crimes; and unexplained injuries.

It might be hard to spot at first, but the sooner you're able to talk to the young person the more you'll be able to help them.

**Where can I find out more?** The information for this fact sheet is taken from the NSPCC website, where you can find information about this and many other safeguarding issues. [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk). You can contact childline on 0800 111 or online. You should call 999 if you feel your child is in immediate danger and needs urgent help.

You can also speak with one of our safeguarding team at school. We are happy to discuss any concerns you may have.

# Sources of support for you

If you feel like you're struggling right now, you're not alone. We've gathered contact information for some helplines, so you know where you can turn to if you need some help. Remember, it's ok not to be ok.

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## Family life

Family Lives (support on any aspect of parenting and family life. Freephone) | 0808 800 2222 | [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk) | [familylives.org.uk](http://familylives.org.uk)

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## Mental health

### For you:

Samaritans (free) | 116 123 | [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) | [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

Mind (calls charged at local and network rates) | 0300 123 3393 | [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk) | [mind.org.uk](http://mind.org.uk)

### If you're worried about your child:

Young Minds Parents Helpline (free) | 0808 802 5544 | <https://bit.ly/3p8kpDp>

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## Domestic abuse

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (free) | 0808 2000 247 | [nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

Men's Advice Line (free) | 0808 8010 327 | [mensadviceline.org.uk](http://mensadviceline.org.uk)

Galop (free, LGBT+) | 0800 999 5428 | [galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

Compass helpline – 24hours a day – 0333 0333 744 | [www.essexcompass.org.uk/self-referral](http://www.essexcompass.org.uk/self-referral)

Women's Aid Chatline | <https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/>

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## Alcohol, drugs and gambling

Drinkline (free) | 0300 123 1110

Drinkchat (calls charged at local and network rates) | 0300 123 1110 | [bit.ly/2NoQx7T](https://bit.ly/2NoQx7T)

Frank (for support around drugs and alcohol. Calls charged at local and network rates)

| 0300 123 6600 | [talktofrank.com](http://talktofrank.com)

National Gambling Helpline, run by Gamcare (free) | 0808 8020 133 | [gamcare.org.uk](http://gamcare.org.uk)

Adfam (for families of those affected by drug, alcohol and gambling problems) | find local support on their website: [adfam.org.uk](http://adfam.org.uk)

The forward trust has the STARS Southend treatment and recovery service for those who live in the city. [www.forwardtrust.org.uk](http://www.forwardtrust.org.uk)

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## Food

Give Food [www.givefood.org.uk](http://www.givefood.org.uk) has a tool to help people find food banks in their local area. From the website, we can see that there are a number of organisations providing support in this area. In addition, the Trussell Trust have centres across Essex. More information can be found at [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org).

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Livewell Southend lists a range of services available to local residents. [www.livewellsouthend.com](http://www.livewellsouthend.com)